

THE RECEPTION

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**Mr. Demens Exhibits to His Guests
the Wonders of His Enterprise,
and Demonstrates the Impor-**

It was a somewhat unique idea of Mr. P. A. Demens to signalize the opening of his extensive wood working establishment by the ceremonies of a formal reception, a usage more commonly applied to matters of fashion or ceremony, but in this case justifying a happy departure as giving an aspect of rejoicing to affairs of business. Why not? Because the phases of the one, if more gay, are more ephemeral, while the other becomes associated with what is fixed and enduring. And the pleasure party of twenty or more

representative gentlemen who attended the reception of Mr. Demens cannot say that they did not have their full share of some of the features of the reception of fashion; for a more tasteful and elegant repast than awaited them had never been spread before them. But we will speak of other things.

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doing its usual duty, the other turned for the nonce into a refreshment room. To the first the guests were first admitted, where they had opportunity to view the exquisite and most appropriate finish of the walls and ceiling. There Mr. Demencia, with much taste and sound judgment had epitomized both the skill of his work and the beauty of his materials. There are combined in beauty of blending or skill in contrast not the native woods of Western North Carolina. The wainscoting embraced three varieties of oak and four

poplar, among which latter wood were panels of curled poplar so beautifully wrought as to resemble finished paintings in high art. The cornice was of chestnut and walnut, and other portions of the room were adorned with oak, poplar, chestnut, ash, walnut, maple and cherry, and perhaps other woods, tastefully combined and admirably finished.

After a full admiration of all these beauties, our host ushered us into the other apartment, where a bountiful and elegantly appointed table lay spread, a

rich and hospitable board, to which ample justice was done. There was a modest popping of corks and a moderate justice done to the sparkling champagne, and then Mr. Reuben Rawls proposed a toast in honor of our entertainer, which was responded to on behalf of Mr. Demens by Captain Atkinson in appropriate terms, that gentleman doing so because of the unfamiliarity of Mr. Demens with our language, he being a Russian gentleman; though it is fair to him to say that in supplementary remarks he was more ready with the English tongue than

It was assumed to be. Then followed a course of toasts, and happy impromptu replies by Mr. Cragg, Mr. Blanton, Mr. Vandiver, Mr. Gaines, Mr. Long, Capt. Patton, Mr. Tennent, Mr. Cameron, and some others, all of them playful or informal, but all heard and received pleasantly, and then the party adjourned for an inspection of the works. These are now in full operation, and about forty men are employed. Mr. Fitch is the superintendent. The main building, with its various machinery, has already been described, and we do not now refer to the character of

excellency of the output. Attention was particularly called to the fine finish and substantial and also tasteful work now being done on the counters, shelving and other fittings for Pelham's new drug store, which leave the factory all ready to be set in place. Here also are made the beautiful mantels, panelings and mouldings which adorn houses now in the city, especially those used in ornamenting the residence of Mrs. Sluder.

Thence the party visited the engine room, where a beautiful engine of 100

work, giving life to the thousand and one members actively and deftly shaping into beautiful form the crude material awaiting its transformation. This great heart and brain, ring of the whole was increased in a structure absolutely fire-proof, with its brick floors and iron roof and support. Near by was the large boiler room, with its capacity of 60,000 feet of boiler, through which a volume of steam was pumped day and night until the contents are thoroughly seasoned.

When we remember that only a few

months ago the space occupied by this establishment was part of the waste of the abandoned fair grounds, we cannot sufficiently admire the energy, the industry, the skill and the taste which has so soon changed the waste into the industrial garden. And admiration is mingled with the more substantial satisfaction of the valuable addition Mr. Demens has made to Asheville and Western North Carolina, and also the remunerative occupation he has given to so many needing employment and competent to their work.

Married
On the 28th, at Mills River, Henderson county, by the Rev. J. A. Weston, of Hickory, N. C., Mr. James B. Beard, of Hickory, and Miss Lucy Morgan, of Mills River. After the ceremony, the bridal pair left on a Northern tour.

The regular monthly dress parade of the Asheville Light Infantry was postponed from last night until to-night. The members are urged to be out in full force and in full dress.